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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 7/16/81

FROM AMCONSUL, LAGOS, NIGERIA
DESP. NO. 41
DATE July 17, 1951

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON
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PRIORITY

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Political

The new Nigerian constitution received royal ascent on June 29, 1951 and was published in Nigeria five days later. The publication of this instrument has created very little interest since the general outline of the document was already known. The degree of regional autonomy which was granted however came as some surprise and the NCNC has criticized the document both because of the restricted powers granted the central legislature and because of the electoral system which was set up.

Dr. Nnamdi AZIKIWE and his electoral party have spent the last two weeks in the Northern Region campaigning. The Government has restricted the various meetings which he has held through its refusal in many cases to permit processions which it believed might cause incidents in the Northern Provinces.

Mr. H. O. DAVIES, the President of the Nigerian People's Congress, has proposed that Dr. Azikiwe and Mr. Obafemi AWOLOWO get together with him with a view to a combination of forces in order to stop the present vitriolic campaigns. His proposals meet with little support from Mr. Awolowo and it is not believed that this effort will result in any success. It is quite probable that Mr. Davies would be only too willing to form a third man in such a triumvirate.

One humorous aspect of the dispute between the Action Group and the NCNC has been the adhesion of Mr. Gideon URHOBO, the so-called Life President of God's Kingdom Society. Mr. Urhobo was formerly associated with Jehovah Witnesses but broke off his connection to form his own organization. He has taken up the Action Group's campaign and is spending his time attacking the NCNC with somewhat bombastic proclamations which call upon the Almighty to bring about the downfall of Dr. Azikiwe and his followers. It is somewhat indicative of the spirit of this campaign that Mr. Urhobo's support should be so warmly welcomed by the Action Group press, notably the Daily Service of Lagos

The three Regional Houses of Assembly are to meet this

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It has been announced that BOAC plans to put its new "Comet" aircraft on the London - South Africa run which passes through Kano, Nigeria. It is believed that the trip from Kano to London will then only require about seven hours or somewhat less than half the time now consumed.

The Veterinary Department has issued a release concerning its efforts toward settling the nomadic Fulani tribe of Northern Nigeria. One of the most effective measures has been the damming of streams for the conservation of water during the dry season. It is hoped that these cattlemen will be encouraged to settle permanently around these reliable sources of water.

Recent reports indicate that the Colonial Development Corporation's mechanized farming project at Mokwa has not been successful with its crops this year owing to the late and inadequate rains. It is too early to state whether this project will be successful but up to the present time there have been no phenomenal achievements.

Mr. Ralph ANIEDOBE, Secretary of the Nigerian Brewery Workers' Union and Domestic Servants' Union, is attending the ICFTU Conference being held at Milan, Italy.

Miscellaneous

Professor J. P. ANDREWS, Vice President and Professor of Physics at the University College, Ibadan, has been appointed Principal of the new Gold Coast College of Arts, Science and Technology.

The Nigerian Government has announced arrangements with Cambridge and London Universities for the giving of qualifying examinations in Nigeria in 1952.

It has been announced that Mr. Robert H. CAIN, V.C., has been appointed General Manager of Shell Company of West Africa Limited.

A. W. Childs
American Consul General

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